

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DLOS-07 COA-02 IO-14

ACDA-19 SNM-02 DRC-01 /158 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5031

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE

COMSEVENTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CTF SEVEN TWO IMMEDIATE

13AF CLARK

*FLT COORD GP NKP

COMNAVINTCOM

MAC/SCOTT AFB

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMUSMACTHAI

USSAG 7AF NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11391

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJ: US INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO

REF: BANGKOK 11314

1. I CONVOKED MEETING HERE SATURDAY MORNING TO REVIEW IMMEDIATE
IMPLICATIONS OF RTG DECISION TO REQUEST SUSPENSION OF P-3
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RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER INDIAN OCEAN, WITH REAR ADMIRAL

GLINDEMAN FROM FLEET COORDINATING GROUP NKP, DEPCOMUSMACTHAI,
DATT AND EMBASSY.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT RTG DECISION APPLIES ONLY TO FLIGHTS OVER
INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAPAO. THERE IS NO REASON TO DISCONTINUE
RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA WHICH CAN BE RELATED
TO OUR CONCERN FOR INDOCHINA, INCLUDING TRACKING OF NARCOTICS-
LADEN TRAWLERS. I RECOMMEND THAT WE MAINTAIN, CONSISTENT WITH
VALID OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, NORMAL P-3 PRESENCE AND
RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA AREAS FROM
UTAPAO TO KEEP THIS OPTION OPEN AND AVOID ANY UNSEEMLY IN-
DICATION OF PANICKY STANDDOWN.

3. WE WILL SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION REGARDING ACCEPTABILITY TO
RTG OF ADMINISTRATIVE, LIAISON, MEDEVAC OR OTHER EMERGENCY
FLIGHTS BY P-3 AIRCRAFT BETWEEN UTAPAO AND DIEGO GARCIA
AND/OR OTHER INDIAN OCEAN AIRFIELD FACILITIES. IN THE INTERIM
NO REPEAT NO SUCH FLIGHTS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED WITHOUT PRIOR
COORDINATION AND APPROVAL FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF MILITARY PLANS TO COMPLY
WITH RTG REQUESTS AND ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE COVERAGE OF INDIAN
OCEAN AREAS, AS BACKGROUND FOR OUR CONTINUING CONSIDERATION
OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RTG DECISION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER
ALSO MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME THAT HE SHARES OUR
CONCERN WITH INCREASED SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPING
SECURITY BALANCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA; EXCHANGES OF INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION AND ESTIMATES WITH RTG SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND
STRENGTHENED TO REINFORCE THIS CONCERN, DESPITE CUTOFF
OF UTAPAO-BASED RECCE FLIGHTS.
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